

JAN 22 2019

## SENATE RESOLUTION

REAFFIRMING THE USE OF THE TERM "DEAF-BLIND" BY THE STATE OF  
HAWAII AND THE COUNTIES.

1 WHEREAS, terminology and labeling of a particular community  
2 based on a common characteristic or interest can be quite  
3 specific and significant to the community's members; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, many individuals in Hawai'i and nationally have  
6 used the term "deaf-blind", written in lowercase with a hyphen  
7 between the words deaf and blind, to describe individuals who  
8 are deaf and blind; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, long-standing institutions such as the Helen  
11 Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults and the  
12 National Center on Deaf-Blindness have and continue to use the  
13 term "deaf-blind", written in lowercase with a hyphen between  
14 the words deaf and blind, to describe the deaf and blind  
15 community; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, federal laws that define and refer to individuals  
18 who are deaf and blind use the term "deaf-blind" written in  
19 lowercase with a hyphen between the words deaf and blind; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Administrative Rules, in section 11-  
22 218-3, define "person who is deaf-blind" as "any person who,  
23 with or without the assistance of hearing or visual aids, has  
24 both auditory and visual disabilities that interfere with  
25 communication", utilizing the term "deaf-blind" written in  
26 lowercase with a hyphen between the words deaf and blind; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, Act 218, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, session  
29 established a comprehensive service center for deaf, hard of  
30 hearing, and deaf-blind individuals in Hawai'i, with the term  
31 "deaf-blind" written in lowercase with a hyphen between the  
32 words deaf and blind; and  
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34 WHEREAS, some individuals and organizations have sought to  
35 use the term "DeafBlind" with no hyphen between the words deaf



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1 and blind and the first letter of each word capitalized; now,  
2 therefore,

3  
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
5 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the State,  
6 counties, and all entities that contract with the State or a  
7 county utilize the term "deaf-blind" with the term "deaf-blind"  
8 written in lowercase with a hyphen between the words deaf and  
9 blind; and

10  
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
12 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Director of  
13 Human Services, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Mayor  
14 of the County of Maui, Mayor of the County of Hawaii, Mayor of  
15 the County of Kauai, Executive Director of the Disability and  
16 Communication Access Board, and Executive Director of the Hawai'i  
17 Civil Rights Commission.

18  
19  
20  
OFFERED BY:

*Karl Rhoads*

